

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

Monday 1 March 2021

11:20

Meeting to be conducted using Microsoft Teams

Please note later start time of meeting.

NB. Attendance by the public and press is via webcast only which can be viewed here -
<https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Members are requested to join the Teams meeting through the Outlook calendar booking (click “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting”).

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
19 February 2021

A G E N D A

PART ONE

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2021** (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. Children & Families Transformation Phase 2 Update & Learning from the Serious Case Review**
Presentation of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- 5. Work Programme** (Pages 9 - 16)
- 6. Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman to move:-

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

nil

Membership

Ann Beech
Ron Clarke
Ann Edgeller
John Francis (Chairman)
Trevor Johnson

Bryan Jones
Jason Jones
Paul Snape
Bob Spencer (Vice-Chairman)
Mike Worthington

Note for Members of the Press and Public

Filming of Meetings

The Open (public) section of this meeting may be filmed for live or later broadcasting or other use, and, if you are at the meeting, you may be filmed, and are deemed to have agreed to being filmed and to the use of the recording for broadcast and/or other purposes.

Recording by Press and Public

Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

Scrutiny and Support Manager: Nicholas Pountney Tel: (01785) 276153

Minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee Meeting held on 6 January 2021

Present: John Francis (Chairman)

Attendance	
Ann Beech	Paul Snape
Ron Clarke	Bob Spencer (Vice-Chairman)
Ann Edgeller	Mike Worthington
Bryan Jones	

Apologies: Trevor Johnson and Jason Jones

PART ONE

55. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

56. Minutes of meeting held on 5 November 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

57. Customer Feedback and Complaints Service

(a) Children's Social Services Annual Report 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Schedule 1 to the signed minutes) informing them of the Customer Feedback and Complaints Service – Children's Social Services Annual Report 2019/20 (schedule 1 to the signed minutes). Preliminary consideration had been given to the report at their meeting 5 November 2020. However, the Cabinet Member had undertaken to provide background details of its contents, including lessons learned from complaints, to assist the Committee in providing full and detailed scrutiny.

The Annual Report had been prepared in order to comply with the Authority's statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 Representation Procedure (England) Regulations 2006 to publish details of (i) the number of complaints recorded regarding children's services; (ii) the outcome of each complaint made and; (iii) whether relevant statutory timescales had been adhered to. As such, it provided a historical snapshot of the Authority's performance during the year.

The Committee noted that during 2019/20 there had been a total of 324 complaints investigated through the various statutory and Corporate Complaints' procedures of which:- (i) 124 dealt with under Statutory Stage 1 (Local Resolution) procedures; (ii) 12

dealt with under Statutory Stage 2 (Independent Review/Investigation) procedures; (iii) 1 dealt with under Statutory Stage 3 (Complaint Review Panel) procedures; (iv) 187 dealt with under Corporate Complaints Stage 1 (Local Resolution) procedures; (v) 18 dealt with under Corporate Complaints Stage 2 (Internal Review/Investigation) procedures and (vi) 47 investigated by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO). However, there had also been 225 complements received by the Authority relating to Children's services.

During the discussion which ensued, Members queried the Authority's performance by reference to the above-mentioned statistics, the majority of which had shown significant increases when compared to those for the preceding year (2018/19). Stage 1 Corporate Complaints had increased by 49% whereas the number of complements received from service users had decreased by 6%. In addition, complaints referred to the LGSCO had increased by 62%. In reply, the Cabinet Member explained that many of the Stage 1 Corporate Complaints received had been in respect of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) service. However, the backlog of cases which had largely arisen owing to staff shortages had both been addressed. Also, it was anticipated that the appointment of a new SEND Complaints Officer within the Corporate Complaints service would enable early resolution of issues, in the future, as they arose. Further measures were being implemented in order to manage expectations although complainants retained their right to refer matters to the LGSCO in the event they remained dissatisfied with the outcome of both statutory and legal investigations/reviews.

Members also raised the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic on the figures for the year which they acknowledged was likely to be minimal although performance for the current year might be significantly affected.

In response to a question from a Member regarding some of the outcomes of the Independent Investigations/reviews included in the report which involved relatively low level recommendations eg "Communications – letters, emails, phone calls – should be responded to promptly whether or not an immediate answer can be provided", the Cabinet Member acknowledged that performance had been lacking in certain circumstances and the Authority had occasionally fallen short of required standards owing to administrative oversight. However, he re-assured them that robust measures were in place to share best practice across the service and learn from previous mistakes in order to improve future performance.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

(b) Learning from Complaints

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Schedule 2 to the signed minutes) informing them of how the Children and Families' Service had learned from complaints received during 2019/20 implementing change where necessary. This followed a request by the Committee at their previous meeting for further information on how the Authority dealt positively with complaints to improve service delivery for the residents of Staffordshire.

Members heard that the County Council were committed to continuous service improvement and as such, focused on outcomes rather than the total number of

complaints received. However, it was recognised that all complaints, whether upheld or not, could provide the Authority with:- (i) a better understanding of the needs of service users; (ii) how these needs could be better met and; (iii) opportunities to avoid similar complaints arising in the future. The Committee were provided with specific examples of remedial measures which had been implemented in various service areas following complaints received and were encouraged by the steps which had been taken to resolve issues of concern.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Cabinet Member outlined the progress which had been made by the Family and Friends Fostering Team Service in reviewing the information and training provided to Special Guardians. The Authority had made a significant financial investment during 2020 to establish a support hub for Special Guardians and, following the outcome of a complaint received during the year, other remedial measures with timescales had been included in an Action Plan, progress against which was being closely monitored by management.

The Cabinet Member also outlined various the efforts made by the Authority to share key messages, themes and learning across the service to ensure all practitioners were fully aligned/trained as appropriate. These included Practitioner Briefings, Practice Forum and Team meetings etc. However, following feedback from staff it had become apparent that there was a need to share information on best practice in a more routine and accessible way having regard to their heavy workloads and further consideration was being given as to how best this could be achieved.

In response to another question, the Cabinet Member explained the changes which had been implemented by the Specialist Safeguarding and Early Help Service following a recommendation to review the inclusion of tick boxes in templates for special work reports. Staff had been reminded that written assessments must also include critical narratives and reasons behind any ticked boxes used so as to avoid the misleading binary approach which could otherwise arise.

In conclusion Members were encouraged that the volume of complaints over the year had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Children's Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20 under difficult circumstances. However, they expressed their wish to receive more real-time data in the future rather than just the historical snapshots provided by Annual Reports, in order to assist them in their overview and scrutiny role. They also noted that whilst benchmarking with other Local Authorities in the area of complaints could, in theory, provide useful comparisons, this was not possible at present owing to inconsistencies in the methods of recording data between Councils.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Chairman give further consideration as to how the reporting of information on complaints to the Committee could be enhanced so as to improve scrutiny and provide greater assistance to the Authority in their efforts towards service improvement in the future.

58. Elective Home Education

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Education and SEND (Schedule 3 to the signed minutes) giving details of the Elective Home Education Service in the County during 2020/21.

Members were informed that under the Education Act 1996 all parents had a duty to secure appropriate full-time education for their children which could include 'Elective Home Education' (EHE). However, the current legal framework did not provide a system for either regulating home education or enforcing education by a particular method. Instead, it specified a system for identifying and dealing with children who were not receiving a suitable full-time education. If a child was not attending school fulltime, the law required the Local Authority to ascertain what education was being provided and to take further action, if required. In addition, Local Authorities' safeguarding responsibilities were the same for all children whether educated in school or not.

In line with national trends, the number of children in EHE in Staffordshire had been increasing year on year. This had given rise to concerns by the Corporate Parenting Panel over the potential vulnerability of EHE pupils. In response, a joint review had been undertaken by the Committee and Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee in 2018 following which it was recommended that:-

- "(i) the Cabinet Member supports representation being made to Ofsted with regard to the mechanism in place to take account of the reasons for deregistration and, where there is a disproportionately high number de-registering for EHE, consider more closely the reasons behind this;
- (ii) the Cabinet Member consider how staffing can be increased in recognition of the significant increase in the numbers of EHE and the consequent implications to workload and resources;
- (iii) the Cabinet Member consider how this event (development of an annual event to celebrate the achievements of the EHE community) can be supported and facilitated and;
- (iv) supporting the introduction of a registration scheme for all children of statutory school age who are or become electively home educated and ask the Cabinet Member to make representations and lobby in support of the current Private Members Bill introduced by Lord Soley on Home Education".

The Cabinet Member highlighted that total number of children in EHE had increased by 1296 during the current year. This represented an increase of 537 over the same period in 2019/20 and whilst in-line with national trends was directly attributed to the effects of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. Also, the proportion of children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) had decreased from 82 during 2019/20 to 54 in the current year to date. Whilst the majority of children in EHE identified as British/English, 11% had chosen not to express their ethnicity, with the third largest group being Gypsy/Roma at 8%. Furthermore, according to EHE Population Vulnerability Indicators, there were currently 315 children categorised as a concern (educational or welfare) compared to only 29 cases at the start of the Educational Year.

During their full and detailed scrutiny of the Authority, the Committee sought an update on progress which had made in implementing the above-mentioned recommendations. Whilst new guidance on managing EHE had been published by the Department for Education (DfE), requests to review and amend the law had so far not been taken up by Government. However, Members were encouraged to learn that a consultation on the establishment of a register of children not attending mainstream schools (together with other changes) had been held in April 2019 and a report on the outcome was expected to be published in January 2021.

With regard to the County Council's EHE support service, they were pleased to learn that three additional members of staff had made good progress in achieving the targets set out in DfE guidance which stated that all EHE families should be contacted on 12 month rolling programme. However, since the Pandemic slippage against this target had occurred, although additional resources had been secured to help manage the influx of new families. Whilst it was hoped the team would be able to resume their contacts with existing families in the near future their priority would remain those families where education provision had given rise to concerns and those known to social care services.

Members heard that arrangements were on-going for the establishment of an annual event to celebrate the achievements of EHE students. Although they acknowledged the significant additional pressure on the service caused by the Pandemic, they expressed their wish for the recommendation to be implemented as soon as possible.

Further discussion ensued on the need for a Long-Term Plan for the management of EHE. However, they noted that, as the legislation currently stood, the Authority were unable to promote or require education in a school setting as a preference over that of EHE. They also noted the role of the County Council was to provide additional support needed by families who chose EHE. Members were mindful that the quality of EHE could vary widely between families depending on socio-economic, educational and other factors. They were particularly concerned about CiN, those children with Child Protection Plans and those not currently known to the Local Authority. In conclusion, they spoke of the need to continue to lobby Government about the legislative changes required, (as identified by their previous Working Group), having regard to the time since the 2019 consultation and publication of the report and expressed support for a further Working Group to be convened during 2021 to evaluate progress.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That the Chairman, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND), continue to lobby Government on the need for legislative changes governing Elective Home Education in particular the introduction of a registration scheme for all children of statutory school age who are or become electively home educated.

(c) That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee be invited to participate in a further Working Group to evaluate progress against the recommendations of the 2018 Joint Working Group, following publication of the report on the findings of the April 2019 Department for Education consultation entitled 'Children not in School'.

59. Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Health Care and Wellbeing (Schedule 4 to the signed minutes) regarding the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report 2019/20.

The meeting was attended by John Wood, the Independent Chair of the Board who presented the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member.

Members were informed that there had been 4,150 occasions where concerns had been reported that adults with care and support needs might have been at risk or were experiencing abuse or neglect. This was an increase of 439 (11%) compared to 2019/20 and was reflective of the national figure of 8.7%. Following an initial assessment, it had been determined that the duty of enquiry requirement had been met in 93% of concerns.

Of those subject to a Section 42 enquiry under the Care Act 2014, individuals aged between 75-84 and 85-94 represented the largest cohort (both 27%), followed by 64-74 (12.5%). An analysis of the general population in Staffordshire indicated that adults over 65 were disproportionately over-represented in Section 42 enquiries.

Neglect and acts of omission, physical harm or financial abuse continued to be the most frequent types of harm or abuse identified for Section 42 enquiries, accounting for 75% of all harm and/or abuse recorded. The proportion of people subject of a Section 42 enquiry whose outcome was fully met had increased from 80% in 2018/19 to 88% the year.

Members noted the progress made by the Board against their strategic priorities of: (i) Engagement and; (ii) Reducing Financial and Material Abuse. The Partnership had developed a range of methods to engage and communicate with people including the establishment of a website containing a variety of adult safeguarding information. There had been in excess of 58,000 visitors to the site during the year with the most popular pages being "Safeguarding Adult Reviews" and "What is abuse". With regard to (ii) above the key focus was on raising awareness. Training had been provided to staff working at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Partners were sharing information on their experiences with incidence of Financial and Material Abuse in order to gain a better understanding of the problem Countywide.

In full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued Members expressed concern over apparent discrepancies highlighted in the report relating to the:- (i) relatively low number of Safeguarding Adult Review Referrals (SARs) (5) during year compared to the total number of safeguarding concerns received; (ii) differences in the statistics for Staffordshire compared to those for Stoke-on-Trent and; (iii) ethnic groups who were under/over represented in the statistics.

In reply, the Chair explained the Partnership's robust processes and criteria used for determining whether a SAR should be undertaken or not following a report of concern. Only the most serious cases were the subject of a Review and typically these arose very infrequently. However, in the interests of transparency, all those cases examined by the

Board's Scoping Panel were included in the Annual Report, whereas the Care Act only required inclusion of actual Reviews undertaken. Reviews were always undertaken by persons independent of the Partnership. The Chair also stressed the learning taken by the Board from both SAR and those cases considered by the Scoping Panel.

Continuing, the Chair explained the differences in the statistics between the County and City Councils were largely as a result of ongoing difficulties with the Care Director computer system, conversion rates and methods of recording cases. However, although additional investment was required, attempts were being made to resolve inconsistencies between the two Authorities and he reassured Members that safeguarding concerns in both Council's areas were dealt with consistently and in an appropriate manner.

With regard to ethnicity, the Chair explained that the statistics for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent mirrored those nationwide. However, the 7.6% of reports during the year which didn't include a record of ethnic background was a cause for concern owing to the likelihood that these might involve people who lacked the mental capacity to self-identify in a particular group. Efforts were therefore being made to revise the "Not Known" category to differentiate between those who were unable to self-identify and those who had refused to state their ethnic origin.

In response to the concerns expressed by the Committee the Chair undertook to include an additional paragraph in future Annual Reports to clarify the processes and procedures adopted by the Board for deciding whether or not to undertake a SAR in cases brought to their attention.

The Chairman then thanked the Independent Chair for an interesting and informative presentation and paid tribute to the Board for their valuable work in promoting adult safeguarding in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent during the year.

RESOLVED – That the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report from April 2018 to March be received and noted.

60. Work Programme

The Committee considered their rolling Work Programme for 2020/21 (Schedule 5 to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That, with the inclusion of:-

- An additional meeting on a date and at a time to be arranged in February 2021 to consider the outcome of a Serious Case Review which had recently been published.
- Following the briefing notes previously provided to the committee, 'Catch 22' on the Agenda for the meeting scheduled for 1 March 2021 and 'Domestic Abuse' on the Agenda for the meeting scheduled for 22 April 2021';

- ‘Contextual Safeguarding’ on the Agenda for the meeting scheduled for 1 March 2021’.

and deletion of; -

- ‘MTFS Reforms and; Assessing the “No Impact Claims”’,

the updated Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.

(c) That the updated Work Programme 2020/21 be brought to their next meeting for consideration.

61. Date of Next Meeting - Monday 1 March 2021 at 10.00 am, Virtual/On-line

RESOLVED – That the date, time and venue of the next meeting be noted.

Chairman

WORK PROGRAMME

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2020/21

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2020/21.

The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is responsible for scrutinising: children and adults' safeguarding; community safety and Localism. The Council has three priority outcomes. This Committee is aligned to the outcome: The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

We review our work programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

Councillor John Francis

Chairman of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

Membership – County Councillors 2020-21	Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2020-2021
John Francis (Chairman) Bob Spencer (Vice Chairman) Ann Beech Ron Clarke Ann Edgeller Trevor Johnson Bryan Jones Jason Jones Paul Snape Mike Worthington	28 May 2020 at 10.00 am cancelled due to Covid 19 7 July 2020 at 10.00 am virtual meeting held on Teams 1 September 2020 at 10.00 am virtual meeting held on Teams 13 October 2020 at 10.00 am – Extra meeting virtual meeting held on Teams 5 November 2020 at 10.00 am – virtual meeting held on Teams 6 January 2021 at 10.00 am (moved from 11 January 2021) - virtual meeting held on Teams 1 March 2021 at 10.00 am - virtual meeting held on Teams 22 April 2021 at 10.00 am

Meetings usually take place in the Oak Room in County Buildings.

Work Programme 2020-21

Work Programme 2020-21

Date of meeting	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
28 May 2020 10.00 am Page 10	Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting.	Meeting cancelled due to Covid 19
	Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six-monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services Note that following the 7 November Triangulation meeting the Cabinet Member requested that this be considered in light of the new DA Act. The report needs to focus on the effectiveness of the new contract and the current shortfall in funding	<i>Briefing notes were requested after the 7 July meeting to update members on these items and help prioritise future work programme planning.</i>
	Catch 22 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time	
7 July 2020 10.00 am Virtual Teams Meeting	Update on Children's Transformation	The Select Committee to receive an update on Children's Transformation in light of the impact of Covid 19 and the County Council's response to this.	The Children and Families Services approach and response to Covid-19 was endorsed and Members congratulated officers on their understanding of the impact and risks associated with the Covid-19 and responding to these. Members also asked for a letter of thanks be sent to Catch22 for their continued professionalism and commitment throughout the crisis.
1 Sept 2020 10.00am Virtual Teams Meeting	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board – response to Covid-19 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Following the 7 July Select Committee Members requested another opportunity to consider the response to Covid-19 by the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board in more detail.	Officers were commended on the work undertaken and on their risk and recovery planning. The refreshed risk and recovery plan will be shared with the Select Committee once it has been updated to include demand following the return to school.
13 Oct 2020 10.00 am	Children & Families Transformation –	An extra meeting requested for pre-decision scrutiny to look at progress with the Children and	An update on the 50% increase in EHE numbers and the impact of Covid 19 on these be include on the work programme.

Extra meeting Virtual Teams Meeting Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee Members invited to attend	update Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Families Transformation prior to the October Cabinet.	Members noted the progress made and recognised the impact of delays on both outcomes and the MTFS. Members comments on the update will be fed back to the October Cabinet meeting.
5 Nov 2020 10.00am	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually.	They heard that the number of complaints received during the year was as follows:- (i) 187 Stage 1 – Local Investigation complaints and; (ii) 35 Stage 2 - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaints. However, there had been no complaints requiring independent investigation. Members noted the main areas for complaint and were satisfied that the Authority had taken appropriate steps to improve service delivery where necessary. Also, they were encouraged that the volume of complaints had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Adult Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20.
	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Children's Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually.	They gave preliminary consideration to a report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on Customer Feedback and Complaints Service – Children's Social Services Annual report 2019/20 and requested that the matter be brought back to their next meeting in January 2021 for proper scrutiny.
	Court Backlogs: Impact on Children's Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Deborah Ramsdale	Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions	They heard that the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic had exacerbated a pre-existing backlog in the family and criminal justice systems which, unfortunately, had significant implications for those families and individuals concerned. In addition, there were considerable financial pressures on the County Council from delays in cases being heard. However, they were satisfied that appropriate action had been taken by the Authority to highlight the difficulties caused by delays, with Central Government, the judiciary, independent sectors and other stakeholders, as appropriate and looked forward to an improvement in the current situation, as soon as possible.
	Impact of Covid on Children appearing in Criminal courts Cabinet Member: Mark	Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions	See above

	Sutton Officer: Hazel Williamson		
6 January 2021, 2.00 pm (moved from 11 January 2021, 10.00 am)	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: John Wood (Independent Chair)	Consideration requested by the SSASPB to give assurance and an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on adult safeguarding and seek answers to any questions. Inclusion in Work Programme agreed by Chairman 22 October 2020.	Members highlighted the need for more consistency in methods of data capture between Authorities to enable benchmarking. They were encouraged by the lessons which had been learnt and commended all Officers and the Independent Chair on their excellent work and commitment to safeguarding.
	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Children's Social Care (including learning from Complaints) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually. First considered at meeting on 5 November but further report to include additional information.	Members noted the main areas for complaint and were satisfied that the Authority had taken appropriate steps to learn from the criticisms made and improve service delivery where necessary. Also, they were encouraged that the volume of complaints had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Children's Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20. However, they expressed their wish to receive more real-time data relating to complaints in order to assist them in their overview and scrutiny role.
	Elective Home Schooling Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officers: Jenny Dodd, Karl Hobson		Members were updated on progress with regard to the outcomes of a review of EHE support undertaken in Staffordshire during 2018 relating to:- (i) off rolling pupils from school to EHE; (ii) an annual event to celebrate achievements of EHE students and; (iii) Staffing levels within the EHE service. They agreed to continue their efforts to achieve legislative changes for the establishment of a register of children not attending mainstream schools and associated duties on parents/proprietors of certain educational settings.
1 March 2021 10.00 am	Children & Families Transformation Phase 2 and learning from the Serious Case Review Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Helen Riley	Requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021 to review progress on remedial measures following publication of the final report.	
22 April 2021 10.00 am	Domestic Abuse: Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Requested by the Committee on 1 January following Briefing Notes circulated in October 2020.	
	Contextual Safeguarding Review	Requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021. Following the introduction of the Contextual	

	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Christopher Heeley & Hazel Williamson	Safeguarding approach a review at the end of its first year will consider progress made and the Select Committee will consider the results of this review.	
	'Catch 22' Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Natasha Moody	Originally requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021 following Briefing Notes circulated in July 2020.	
tbc	Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Lead Officer: Jo Sutherland	At the 7 November Triangulation meeting it was proposed to look at any gaps in provision between what is happening in the community for adults on the cusp of care, the neighbourhood coaches/provisions and any safeguarding issues this may present.	
tbc 6 monthly update from 7 November Meeting (May/June 2020)	Regional Permanency Partnership Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale & Jo Sullivan	Following consideration of the arrangements at their 7 November Select Committee Members had requested an up-date on progress with the arrangements in six months' time.	

Standing Items 2020-21

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Select Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review	Some areas picked up by the DHR review process

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2020-21

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
	Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan	Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting. <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Special Meeting 13 October 2020
	Domestic Abuse	At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six-monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services Note that following the 7 November Triangulation meeting the Cabinet Member requested that this be	Circulated to Members 14 October 2020

		<p>considered in light of the new DA Act. The report needs to focus on the effectiveness of the new contract and the current shortfall in funding.</p> <p><i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i></p>	
	Catch 22	<p>Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time.</p> <p><i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i></p>	Circulated 21 September 2020

Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2020-21			
Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
January 2021 Page 14	Transition & Preparation for Adulthood Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale	<p>At their 22 January 2019 meeting Members requested this issue be included on their work programme – with consideration to be given to whether this should be considered by a working group.</p> <p>In particular they wanted to look at the transition between children's and adult services, the gaps, those that remained vulnerable but under the Care Act did not meet the criteria to receive adult services and how to prepare individual's to be resilient and prepare for as independent an adulthood as possible.</p>	<p>Deborah Ramsdale is working on adults' transition, including transition clinics. TSU have undertaken a piece of work in this area. A Peer Review on Adults is due in October 2019. Proposed to stall working on this until post the Peer Review.</p> <p>A protocol has now been agreed and will be implemented in November 2019.</p> <p>Following their meeting of 13 January, the Select Committee agreed to postpone a decision on establishing this working group to allow the protocol, which went live in November 2019, to bed in. A report will be brought to the Select Committee in 12 months' time (January 2021) to evaluate progress made and Members can consider whether there remains a need for a working group at that point.</p>
ongoing	Children & Families Transformation System progress Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Janene Cox/Helen Riley	To scrutinise progress made with the Transformation programme on a monthly (or as appropriate) basis.	<p>At their 13 January 2020 meeting Members agreed that the Chairman (and/or Vice Chairman or Shadow Vice Chairman) will attend the monthly Children's Improvement Board and report back to the Select Committee rather than duplicating work already underway by establishing a separate working group.</p> <p>Consequently, an oral report will be given by the Chairman (and/or Vice Chairman or Shadow Vice Chairman) to the Select Committee reporting on progress.</p>

March 2019 -	SEND Working Group Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Tim Moss	Following the joint Ofsted and Written Statement of Action (WSoA) a joint working group was established with Members from the Prosperous Staffordshire, Healthy Staffordshire and Safe and Strong Communities Select Committees to look at progress in implementing the WSoA.	
	Children's Improvement Board informal briefing Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	At the 7 July Select Committee the Chairman requested an informal briefing for all Members to update them on the work of the Children's Improvement Board.	

Children's Improvement Board – monitoring of the Children & Families Transformation System progress			
Date	Who attended from the Select Committee	Items discussed	Information
30 January, 25 February, 29 June 2020	Cllr Francis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus area for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribunals and the cost implications of SCC conceding/losing at tribunal • Progress overview 2. Performance – EHCP data 3. Emergent risks 4. Forward plan 	<p>To be reported at the meeting.</p> <p>At the 7 July Committee meeting members asked for an informal workshop to discuss the improvement plan in detail.</p>

